



Office of Secretary of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office

Daily Media Watch

16 June 2010

CURRENT

[Marine questioned in alleged rape near Camp Hansen - News](#) – Stripes.com

Okinawa police have questioned a 21-year-old Marine about an alleged May 25 rape. Marine Corps officials and the Marine are fully cooperating with local police to determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident. Marine officials say the Marine is confined to base. The Marine and a 19-year-old Japanese woman met at a bar in Kin. She alleged the Marine hit her in the face and raped her in the yard of a nearby home. She reportedly notified a gate guard at the Marine camp.

[VA Center Opens For All Combat Vets; Counseling and Other Services Provided](#) – KSMU Radio

A new VA center is set to officially open its doors on Thursday. It reflects a growing acknowledgement within the US Department of Veterans Affairs that it's necessary to treat all aspects of a wounded soldier. The Springfield Vet Center will provide counseling, free of charge, to all combat veterans who feel they need to talk to someone about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, readjustment issues, or sexual trauma they experienced while serving. The office also helps veterans file for their benefits, refers them for jobs and schools, and provides bereavement counseling for veterans' families.

[It's still unbecoming conduct](#) – Stripes.com (Letter to editor, CWO4 Jeffrey Cologna)

Whether the lower-ranking female did or did not refuse the command sergeant major's advances (as reported in May 21 article), it is improper for someone of senior rank to have a relationship with someone within his or her formation. There is a standard of conduct to which we hold senior noncommissioned officers and senior ranking officials. This case has truly opened the door to those in positions of authority to more freely engage in inappropriate behaviors and get away with it.

PREVIOUS

[No civil commitment for Army sex offender](#) – Armytimes.com

A federal appeals panel says sex offenders convicted in military court but housed by the Bureau of Prisons are not eligible for civil commitment. The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued the ruling in the case of former Army officer Benjamin Barnard Joshua, who pleaded guilty in military court to sexually molesting children. Eight days before his scheduled release from a federal penitentiary, the attorney general petitioned for civil commitment that allows indefinite detention of "sexually dangerous" inmates in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. The appeals court upheld a judge's ruling that despite being physically housed by the Bureau of Prisons, Joshua remained in military custody and therefore was not subject to civil commitment.

[Mullen: Harassment, assault against or by gays won't be tolerated](#) – Stripes.com

The nation's top military officer gave a stern warning to the ranks that regardless of whether "don't ask, don't tell" is repealed, small unit commanders will be expected to maintain a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual assaults and harassment. "I have an expectation for zero hate crimes in the military. None," said Adm. Mullen. Mullen also reminded troops that the House vote was not the final

say, though repeal was likely. If both houses adopt the repeal this year, Mullen, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and President Barack Obama still must approve the Pentagon's yearlong study and certify it to Congress.

Simple rape, sexual battery alleged in separate incidents – Shreveporttimes.com

Michael Powdrill, 24, of Logansport, today was arrested on a warrant charging him with sexual battery for allegedly inappropriately touching a 4-year-old, Hensley said. The child is one of several his wife baby-sits. An investigation began after the child disclosed to her mother that "Uncle Michael had touched her inappropriately," Hensley said. Initially, Powdrill was booked Saturday into DeSoto Detention Center by military police on a warrant accusing him of desertion from the U.S. Marines.

Giving Military Women the Same Abortion Rights as Civilians – About.com (Women's Issues)

Access is what the Senate Armed Services Committee attempted to provide when they passed a provision on May 27, 2010 that would allow military hospitals to perform privately-funded abortions. This lesser-known amendment -- bundled with the larger, more controversial repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding gays in the military -- would reverse the existing ban on abortion at military hospitals and bases except in the cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.

Don't-ask-don't-tell policy was a solution for problem that didn't exist – The News Tribune.com

Editorial by Bill Johnston, former Air Force legal staff for the office of the Staff Judge Advocate, who feels that the current policy of "don't ask, don't tell" was established to "fix" something not broken. It is a policy based on ignorance denying patriotic Americans the right to serve their country. He references reviewing more than 1,000 Article 15s for three major Air Force bases in 1967. This includes attempted murder, rape, assault, incest, bad checks, adultery and gold-smuggling, but he never saw any incident or policy violation involving homosexual conduct. This would have fallen under Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, widely referred to as "conduct unbecoming."

Adjusting to Change After Deployment – NewsBlaze.com (4th Infantry Public Affairs)

As Soldiers prepare to return home from deployment, they also prepare for the change from the combat zone to home. To assist with this change and the redeployment process and reintegration back home, the Army has established the Deployment Cycle Support program. During the DCS process, Soldiers are given classes on the Army's Sexual Assault Prevent and Response Program, Reunion and Reintegration, Suicide Awareness and Prevention. Soldiers also go through a series of health assessments which are designed to give medical care professionals the opportunities to evaluate the physical and behavior health of Soldiers.

ROTC instructor faces more charges – Times-Georgian.com

A Central High School instructor already facing a charge of sexually assaulting a female student has been charged with two more counts of sexual assault. Rivera was released from the Carroll County Jail on May 27 on a \$100,000 bond. Six female students at Central High School filed sexual harassment complaints against Rivera, who has been with the Carroll County School System for more than three years as a U.S. Air Force ROTC instructor.

Rep. Smith Vows to Oppose Military Abortions in Defense Bill – LifeSiteNews.com

Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) has vowed to block an amendment to the FY 2011 Department of Defense Authorization bill that would permit abortions in military medical facilities. The amendment would destroy a ban on abortion in military facilities that has existed since 1996.